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BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

*Medical Officer of Health
for 1963*

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BIDDULPH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1963. The mid-year estimate of population shows a modest increase of 270, to 14,410, half the increase being due to excess of births over deaths. The effect of the more extensive building programme and the consequent influx of new population will be reflected in the 1964 and 1965 figures.

Total births increased in 1963, as did the Birth Rate. Of these births there were only 10 illegitimate, a large drop on the previous year's figure of 19. The number of still births (6) remained the same, and there has been a small decrease in the still-birth rate which, however, is still slightly higher than the national figure.

Once again there was no maternal death in the district. Whilst this freedom is in large measure due to improving ante-natal and pre-natal care, an undoubted factor is the current trend towards early marriage and earlier child-bearing at a time when the mother is at her fittest.

There were six infant deaths of which half occurred within a few hours of birth. Of the six two only could be regarded as possibly amenable to treatment applied to the infant. One died from prematurity and the remaining three from congenital malformations which were both unavoidable and unremediable.

Deaths increased to 142, with a fractional increase in the Death Rate. Once again the heaviest toll is taken by diseases of the heart or blood vessels, diseases due to "wear and tear" processes which are as yet irreversible. Including the 23 cases of death due to cerebral damage, there were 66 deaths due to these diseases (46.5%) and 21 to various respiratory diseases (14.8%). Thus three-quarters of all deaths are due to diseases affecting in the main people in the more elderly age groups. Bronchitis again accounted for 11 deaths. This disease could be reduced to insignificant proportions as a cause of death and of prolonged ill-health by vigorous pursuit on a national scale of atmospheric cleansing both at work and outside the factory and the removal of the pressure to buy and smoke cigarettes from the younger generation.

There was an increase in the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year, due to a small epidemic of measles, and the occurrence of 27 cases of whooping cough. I have made detailed comments in Section C of the Report. It must, however, be emphasized that this disease is one that is amenable to prevention in the youngest age group, where it presents its greatest threat: vaccination is easily carried out by family doctor or at Welfare Clinic.

Work was commenced in November, 1963, on the scheme at Gillow Heath to provide 38 warden-supervised units for the aged. When completed there will be 12 bed-sitters, 26 bungalows and a warden's flat.

On the Park Lane Estate work was commenced on the 210 Miners' houses, for incoming miners, being provided under agreement with the N.C.B., and by the end of the year 46 had been completed.

In April, 1963, agreement was reached for the amalgamation of the Council's water undertaking with the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board.

During the year approval was also given for the preparation of necessary plans for the new Civic Buildings, including hall and new offices to replace the present cramped and unsatisfactory accommodation.

Similarly, the Council gave instructions to their Consultants to prepare a Report on the Sewage Works and submit a scheme for their modernisation or replacement.

Instructions were also given to the Council's Consultants to prepare a scheme for Recreation Grounds.

The pupil Health Inspector appointed in September, 1962, left the Council's employ in June, 1963, and a successor, T. E. Hollins, commenced in October, 1963.

Examination of Employees

Medical Examination of Council Employees in connection with the Sickness Pay Scheme and Superannuation was carried out as necessary. Four were examined in connection with Sickness Pay Scheme, none being found unfit. No examinations for superannuation were made. Additionally, two officers were examined prior to employment.

In submitting this Report, I wish to record my appreciation of the capable help given to me at all times by your Public Health Inspector and for his assistance in completing this Report, and to the Water Engineer for the comments on Water Supply in Section D.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN TOLLAND.

SECTION A

General Statistics

	1963	1962
Area (in acres)	6,647	6,647
Registrar General's mid-year estimate of home population (all ages)	14,410	14,140
Number of houses in the Rate Book at 31st December, 1963	4,533	4,411
Number of persons per acre	2.17	2.13
Rateable value at 1st April, 1963	£313,154	£100,414
Sum represented by a penny rate (Estimated) for financial year 1963/4	£1299.071	£426.902

Vital Statistics

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	146	127	273
Illegitimate births	(6)	(4)	(10)
Illegitimate live births per 1,000 live births	= 36.26		
Illegitimate live births per 1,000 of total live births (England and Wales)	= 69		
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	= 18.94		
Adjusted birth rate	= 17. 4 (comparability factor 0.92)		
Birth Rate (England and Wales)	= 18. 2 (the highest rate since 1949)		

Note on Adjusted Birth Rate

Local birth rates are usually expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including many who quite obviously have no influence on the reproductive process. These latter do, however, effect the birth rate in that a preponderance of them in the population of an area tends to lower, and a small proportion of them to raise, the true rate. Considerable variation in the size of this proportion exists in different areas and it is therefore apparent that the elimination by standardisation of such a factor enables a truer comparison between areas.

A result on these lines is obtained through the issue by the Registrar General of a comparability factor for each area for use with birth rates. The adjusted birth rate resulting from the multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by its comparability factor may be regarded as being comparable with the adjusted rate of any other area or with the crude rate for England and Wales.

	Male	Female	Total
Still births	5	1	6
(Illegitimate)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births =	22.0		
Still birth rate (England and Wales)	=	17.2	
Total live and still births	151	128	279
(Illegitimate)	(6)	(4)	(10)

NOTE.—The number of still births does not alter greatly nationally over the year. The main cause is probably difficult labour, and prevention is by adequate ante-natal care.

	Male	Female	Total
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year of age) 3	3	6	
(Illegitimate)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births—Total	=	22.0	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—Legitimate =	22.8		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—Illegitimate =	0		
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)	=	21.1	
(The lowest annual rate ever recorded in this country.)			

	Male	Female	Total
Neonatal mortality (deaths under 4 weeks of age)	2	1	3
(Illegitimate)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	=	11.0	
Neonatal mortality rate (England and Wales)	=	14.2	
Early neonatal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 live births	=	11.0	
Perinatal mortality rate (still births plus deaths during the first week) per 1,000 total live and still births ...	=	32.6	
Perinatal mortality rate (England and Wales)	=	29.3	
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	=	0	
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ...	=	0	

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths—all ages	72	70	142
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population =	9.9		
Adjusted death rate =	13.66	(comparability factor 1.38)	

NOTE.—This comparability factor is obtained and used, on a similar principle to that for comparability for births.

Death rate (England and Wales) = 12.2.

VITAL STATISTICS

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1963

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Other	—	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	1	—	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	4	5	9
Diabetes	—	3	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	12	11	23
Coronary Disease, Angina	13	9	22
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease	6	8	14
Other Circulatory Disease	4	1	5
Pneumonia	2	4	6
Bronchitis	8	3	11
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
Congenital Malformations	2	1	3
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	6	12	18
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	1	1	2
	—	—	—
Total ...	72	70	142

Causes of Death

Malignant disease (Cancer): 19 deaths were due to this i.e., 13.4% of all deaths. Cancer of the lung killed 2 males, both aged 65 years.

Cardio-Vascular disease: This caused 66 deaths, mainly in old people i.e., 46.5% of all deaths.

Respiratory disease: (Pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory disease) caused 21 deaths i.e., 14.8% of all deaths.

Accidental Deaths

Industrial Accidents: One death occurred, a male of 17 who died from asphyxia caused by electrocution at his place of employment.

Other Accidental Deaths—two deaths occurred, a girl of 18 who died from Barbiturate poisoning from an overdose of Sonergen tablets, and a female of 83 who died as a result of injuries sustained in a fall at home.

There was no death due to motor vehicle accidents.

Suicide

There were two cases, a male aged 55 from coal gas poisoning and a female aged 60 from drowning.

INFANT MORTALITY—Deaths under one year of age.

Male—9 hours.	Atalectasis and Prematurity.
Male—14 weeks.	Acute bronchiolitis.
Female—1 day	Congenital heart disease.
Female—1 month	Pneumonia.
Male—22 hours	Meningomyelocele.
Female—6 months	Cystic fibrosis of pancreas.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Population	13,160	13,300	13,480	13,650	13,940	14,140	14,410
No. of inhabited							
houses ...	4,123	4,157	4,205	4,257	4,324	4,411	4,533
No. of live births ...	284	244	264	278	258	250	273
Birth rate (crude)...	21.6	18.3	19.6	20.3	18.5	17.7	18.9
No. of still births ...	12	9	8	6	4	6	6
Maternal mortality .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. of infant deaths.	12	5	10	13	3	5	6
Infant mortality							
Rate ...	42.3	20.5	37.9	46.7	11.6	20.0	22.0
No. of deaths							
(all ages) ...	115	126	130	117	116	137	142
Death rate (crude) .	8.7	9.5	9.6	8.5	8.3	9.7	9.9

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The Urban District Council is the sanitary authority responsible for the environmental services. It delegates to its Health Committee "Authority and power to institute any proceedings or to do any act which the Council might have instituted or done for the suppression of nuisances and the safeguarding of public health but not the raising of any loans or the making of any rate or contract."

The following additional committees are responsible in one form or another with matters of public health: Water, Housing and Planning and Buildings.

The local authority of Biddulph has no major responsibilities under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The County Council is both Local Health and Local Sanitary Authority as well as Local Education Authority. It has assumed new and diverse responsibilities under the Act. It is responsible for the following services: maternity and child welfare, domiciliary midwifery, vaccinations and immunisation, an ambulance service, a health visiting service, the administration of the Mental Services, "care and after care" and the provision of home nursing and "home helps."

The following are the principal services provided by the County Council and utilised by the inhabitants of the Urban District.

1.—Ambulance Services (Section 27)

There are three vehicles—one ambulance and two sitting cars and a staff of 6 consisting of an ambulance officer and 5 drivers.

The station is manned between 8.0 a.m. and 10.0 p.m. and outside these hours, members of the service are on call.

2. Maternity, Home Nursing and Domestic Help Services (Sections 23, 25 and 29)

There are now two district nurse midwives, two wholetime midwives, and two health visitors.

The Leek Area Health Committee, under Section 29, is responsible for the appointment of domestic helps (home helps). Their function is to give assistance in the home during the incapacity of a wife or mother and they do not undertake any nursing duties.

The County Council is responsible for the other special health services, viz.: Maternity and Child Welfare and the School Medical Service. There are two Health Visitors for the supervision of nursing mothers and school children. All have, in addition, duties under the direction of the Tuberculosis Officer (Chest Physician), which involve the supervision of families with tuberculosis and the tracing and following up of all contacts with a case of active tuberculosis. The County Council's new Welfare Clinic was opened at the beginning of the year.

Laboratory Facilities

Biddulph is served by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. It is a component of a free national laboratory service for England and Wales. The work of the Laboratory is designed to assist the Medical Officer of Health and the general practitioners in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable diseases. Its activities include the examination of throat and nose swabs, sputum, blood and excreta of human origin as aids to diagnosis of suspected and actual infectious diseases. Its sanitary work includes mainly the bacteriological examination of drinking water, the testing of sampled milk for cleanliness and for the presence of the tubercle bacillus and other pathogenic organisms, and the bacteriological testing of ice-cream, synthetic cream, and shellfish as distributed to the user or consumer. Its staff is available to participate in the investigation of outbreaks of infectious disease in the area which it serves with the general aim of preventing or controlling disease.

Sputum: During 1963 the laboratory service investigated 32 specimens of sputum submitted for examination for the tubercle bacillus. All the specimens were examined by direct microscopy and none were positive to this test. 32 were submitted to examination by cultural methods, and 2 of these were positive for tubercule bacilli.

Faeces: 49 specimens were submitted to the laboratory for bacterial examination, 18 by local Medical Practitioners and 31 by the local authority. 8 samples were reported as positive to *Shigella* Sonnei of which 2 were repeat samples from previous confirmed cases. The remaining samples, 41, were negative.

10 of the specimens were taken in connection with the outbreak of suspected food poisoning occurring at the Biddulph Moor Schools during late November. All were negative.

Milk: The Laboratory continues to report on the results of biological tests for tuberculosis in samples of milk submitted to it by the County Council and sold retail in the Urban District. 70 such samples were examined in 1963 and none was found to be positive for tubercle bacilli. All the samples were ordinary tuberculin tested milk. This is the tenth successive year, and among 679 samples, that no positive sample of milk has been recorded. This is a measure of the improved condition of herds. The County Council Milk Sampling Officer also submitted to the laboratory during the year 211 samples for bacteriological examination. 59 of these were submitted to the phosphatase test—a test for pasteurisation—none failed. 37 were given the turbidity test—a test done on milk sold as sterilised milk—and all passed. 150 samples were submitted to the methylene blue test—a test for bacterial presence, which measures the cleanliness of the milk. 13 samples—tuberculin-tested type—failed to pass the test.

A table showing these results is on page 10.

Vaccines: The laboratory distributes in the prevention of disease, diphtheria prophylactic, and calf lymph for smallpox vaccination. It makes available measles prophylactic for the passive immunisation of contacts and distributes outfits for the collection of pathological material.

For the convenience of local medical practitioners and for use at the Infant Welfare Centre the following antigenic materials are held available at the Council Offices, Poliomyelitis vaccine, triple antigen (diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) combined diphtheria tetanus antigen, tetanus toxoid and diphtheria prophylactic in several forms. No stock of calf lymph is held at the Council Offices.

Mass Radiography Service

The mobile unit based on the Stoke-on-Trent Centre carried out a public survey in Biddulph in May, 1963.

The Medical Director has informed me that the survey was attended by 352 men and 502 women and that the following abnormalities were found:—

Active Tuberculosis	1
Quiescent Tuberculosis... ..	2
Pneumoconiosis	3
Cardiac Abnormalities	2

In addition the Medical Practitioners in the area had referred some 300 residents to the static unit at Hartshill and the following abnormalities were found:—

Quiescent Tuberculosis	3
Cancer of the Bronchus	3
Pulmonary Metastases... ..	1
Pneumonia	6
Pneumoconiosis	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	6

Mortuary

The Council's mortuary is situated in Wharf Road. Essential equipment is provided by the local authority and a mortuary attendant is available when required. The mortuary was used on six occasions during 1963. and two post-mortems were carried out.

BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT — MILK SAMPLING, 1963
BY COUNTY COUNCIL MILK SAMPLING OFFICER

	Total	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase		Turbidity		Examined for T.B.	
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Negative	Positive
Tuberculin Tested	115	86	12	—	—	—	—	70	Nil
T.T. Pasteurised	39	34	1	39	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	20	17	—	20	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	37	—	—	—	—	37	—	—	—
Total	211	137	13	59	—	37	—	70	Nil

NOTE.—24 samples were void to the Methylene Blue Test owing to the permissible atmospheric shade temperature being exceeded.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevalence of notifiable infectious and other disease during the year showed a marked increase.

The number of confirmed notifications of infectious disease in 1963 was 214 compared to 64 in 1962 and 592 in 1961.

A table showing the notifications of infectious diseases during 1963 appears in the report on page 17.

The Infectious Disease Isolation Hospital for the area is at Bucknall—a comparatively short distance away. This hospital receives all types of infectious disease apart from smallpox which is treated at the Witton Smallpox Hospital, Birmingham. Admission is arranged directly by the local general practitioners and transport is provided by the local Ambulance Service.

Scarlet Fever

This disease was less prevalent in 1963—1 case occurred compared to 2 in 1962 and 13 in 1961.

The disease in general is now a very mild one.

Whooping Cough

27 cases were notified during the year compared to none in 1962 and 3 in 1961.

I am convinced that mothers should have their children immunised against this disease. There is no doubt that such immunisation lessens the effect of the illness, if contracted. The children can be immunised by the general practitioners or at the Welfare Clinic, preferably by using a combined antigen which affords protection against diphtheria and tetanus at the same time. The initial course of immunisation consists of three injections, commencing when the baby is three to four months old.

Acute Poliomyelitis

The district was again free of this disease during 1963. The figures of cases for the last few years are shown on page 18.

Vaccination is now available to all under 40 years of age using either oral (live) vaccine or killed (Salk) vaccine by injection.

Measles

The periodicity of this disease was again shown, when in 1963 173 cases occurred compared to 7 in 1962, and 506 in 1961. The figures for the last few years as seen on page 18 bear out this fact.

No case was admitted to Bucknall Hospital. The disease is normally relatively mild.

Diphtheria

There has again been no case in Biddulph. Continued freedom from this disease is dependent on complete immunisation of the childhood population. Parents should be fully aware of their duty to have the children immunised in infancy. The state of immunity is achieved by three injections with one month between, and should be commenced at four months of age. A booster dose should be given at age 5 years, and it is desirable to give a further booster during school life, at age 8—10 years.

Dysentery

7 cases were notified of which 4 were confirmed. In addition, 2 positive cases were discovered during enquiries into the confirmed cases.

Acute Pneumonia

This disease decreased in 1963 to 2 cases, compared to 5 in 1962. Ages were 32 and 42 years. No admission was made to hospital.

Food Poisoning

No case was notified in 1963.

Tuberculosis

The year commenced with a total of 80 persons on the Register and a further 5 persons were added during the year—all new cases. It was possible to remove 1 name from the Register so that a total of 84 persons was on the Register at the end of 1963.

The new cases are always of interest.

Four were of pulmonary type. The ages were:—

Males—65, 67 and 80 years.

Female—12 years.

The one non-pulmonary case was a female aged 27 years.

Over the last ten years the number of cases has been fairly steady. The proportion of cases in Biddulph at 31-12-63 is six per 1,000 population.

The Health Visitors provide progress reports on tuberculosis patients already on the register and reports upon environmental conditions of new patients.

Vaccination and Immunisation

The following figures have been supplied to me by the Leek Area Health Office of the County Council showing the work done in the District under the County Council's Vaccination and Immunisation Scheme.

DIPHTHERIA

Primary Immunisations carried out during 1963	Under 1 year	2
	1— 4 years	95
	5— 9 years	—
	10—14 years	—
		97
		—
Reinforcing Doses	0— 4 years	1
	5— 9 years	4
	10—14 years	—
		5
		—

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION

Primary Vaccination carried out during 1963	0— 4 years	100
	5—14 years	1
		101
		—
Reinforcing Doses	0— 4 years	1

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

Primary	0— 1 year	3
	1— 4 years	11
	5—14 years	2
	15 and over	3
		19
		—

RE-VACCINATION

	0— 1 year	—
	1— 4 years	—
	5—14 years	4
	15 and over	10
		14
		—

SECTION D

Water Supplies

Although, during 1963, individual consumption of water at 37.0 gallons per person per day was rather less than the peak of 1961, it was higher than obtained last year and represented an overall increase in the total water consumed of about 22,000 gallons/day. Fortunately, limited additional supplies were made available by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board through a connection at Brown Lees, but the greater part of the increased demand (approximately 16,000 gallons/day) had to be met by the Elmhurst Borehole, from which water was drawn at an average rate throughout the year of 418,000 gallons per day, with maxima on a number of occasions in excess of 480,000 gallons during 24 hours.

I drew attention in my 1962 report to the fact that during that year the average rate of abstraction rose for the first time beyond 400,000 gallons/day, the rate determined by the Ministry as being the safe maximum quantity to be taken from the Borehole if its reserves were not to be seriously overdrawn.

At the end of 1963, water level in the Borehole had fallen a further 9 feet to 99 feet below ground level as compared with the 30 feet which applied in the initial years of operation. It is, of course, now four years since the first steps were taken by the Council to secure adequate augmentation of supplies, and it was in February, 1963, that discussions, which had extended over the preceding 12 months, culminated in agreement on the terms upon which the Council's Water Undertaking should be amalgamated with the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board, provisionally with effect from 1st April, 1964. It was also established that by, or shortly after that date, a new trunk main would be laid by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board to connect with the existing water distribution system at Brown Lees to augment supplies to the District.

It is to be hoped that this programme can be realised since, during the last 12 months, the undertaking's pumping plant and maintenance staff have been under severe strain and supplies in the Park Lane and Brown Lees areas have further deteriorated with periods, particularly at weekends, when supply has been non-existent.

There has been no work of mains renewal during the year, but additional mains have been laid to serve new residential development at Lyndhurst Drive (Brown Lees), Colwyn Drive and Orme Road (Mill Hayes), Pennine Way, Carriage Drive, etc. (Broadmeadows, Woodhouse Lane), Sands Road (Gillow Heath). Birch Avenue (Meadowstyle) and Leek Lane (Biddulph Moor). In addition new mains have been laid by contract in connection with Council housing development on the Park Lane Estate. In all, a total of approximately 160 new properties have been afforded supply during the year on the above developments and elsewhere in the district.

At present, approximately 4,496 houses comprising 99 per cent. of the population have a piped supply to the premises with only 37 houses having no piped supply.

MONTHLY YIELD OF WATER AT SOURCE (1963)

(Thousands of gallons per 24 hours)

Month	Elmhurst Borehole	Biddulph Springs	Park Nettlebeds Well	Totals
January	440	91	14	545
February	454	89	12	555
March	452	90	13	555
April	416	89	16	521
May	414	97	13	524
June	427	91	14	532
July... ..	414	92	12	518
August	396	88	5	489
September	399	92	12	503
October	397	95	19	511
November	421	93	19	533
December	400	93	28	521
Daily Average ...	418	92	15	525

Total water drawn from the above sources during 1963 ...191,166,000

Water drawn from Staffs. Potteries Water Board at
Brown Lees (Bulk Supply) ... 2,266,000

Total consumption, 1963 ...193,432,000

Total water supplied by meter ...31,788,000 gallons, as follows:—

- (i) Industry12,893,000
- (ii) Schools,
Hospitals 5,713,000
- (iii) Horticulture 335,000
- (iv) Leek R.D.C.
(Bulk Supply) ... 285,000
- (v) Farms and others 12,562,000

Overall consumption per person per day on basis of average
(June, 1963):

Consumer population of 14,350 persons 37.0 gallons

Overall consumption (non-metered supplies only)
per person per day ... 30.8 gallons

SAMPLES—WATER SUPPLIES

Source	Bacteriological	Chemical	Remarks
Raw Supplies— Biddulph Park Springs	5	—	1 Bacteriological Unsatisfactory
Elmhurst Borehole	4	—	Satisfactory
Nettlebeds Well	1	1	Satisfactory
Piped Supplies— Biddulph Park Supply (Chlorinated)	5	—	Satisfactory
Biddulph Moor Supply (Chlorinated)	4	—	Satisfactory
Whitemoor Supply	5	—	Satisfactory
Mid-Cheshire Supply	1	—	Satisfactory
Private Supply	1	—	Satisfactory

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OCCURRING IN 1963

DISEASE	AT ALL AGES	TOTAL CASES AT ALL AGES									
		Under 1 yr.	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 years	5—9 Years	10—14 Yrs.	15—24 Yrs.	25 and over	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	1	4	3	4	1	10					
Whooping Cough	27										
Acute Poliomyelitis											
Paralytic											
Non-Paralytic											
Measles (excluding Rubella)	173	9	21	15	26	18	82	2			
Diphtheria											
Dysentery	4			1			1	1	1		
Meningococcal infection											
Acute Pneumonia	2								2		
Smallpox											
Acute Encephalitis											
Infectious											
Post Infective											
Enteric or Typhoid Fever											
Para-typhoid Fever											
Erysipelas											
Food Poisoning											
Tuberculosis											
Respiratory	4							1	3		
Meninges and C.N.S.											
Other	1								1		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2									
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BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT—CONFIRMED NOTIFICATIONS 1954—1963

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Scarlet Fever	14	3	29	12	23	35	5	13	3	1
Whooping Cough	2	58	19	6	—	1	59	3	—	27
Acute Poliomyelitis										
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	51	165	99	218	23	212	2	506	7	173
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	43	4
Meningococcal infection	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia	21	15	10	14	11	22	9	14	5	2
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis										
Infective	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	2	2	—	1	2	2	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	1	1	10	—	2	—	2	—	—
Tuberculosis										
Respiratory	10	15	6	11	9	5	7	7	4	4
Non-Respiratory	3	2	—	5	2	—	1	—	2	1
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals...	108	259	169	283	69	278	86	592	64	214

TUBERCULOSIS, 1963

	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Number of cases on Register at 31-12-62	36	4	32	8	80
Number of cases added during the year	3	—	1	1	5
Number of cases removed during year	1	—	—	—	1
Number of cases on Register at 31-12-63	38	4	33	9	84

Cases added to the Register:

New notifications 5

Cases removed from the Register:

Removed to other areas 1

Total... 5

Total ... 1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the principle work undertaken under the Public Health Act, etc. During the year 116 complaints were received and investigated 248 preliminary notices were served. Inspections and revisits made with respect to:—

Housing and other defects	173
Nuisances or defects found	210
Nuisances or defects remedied	52
Drainage	87
Closet conversions	88
Watercourses, ditches	5
Water supply (sampling, etc.)	26
Caravans	73
Miscellaneous	112
Refuse Accommodation... ..	264
Refuse collection, etc.	198
Interviews—owners and tradesmen	56
Infectious disease and disinfections	13
Visits re Dysentery	39

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(a) Sewage Works

The sewage works have operated normally during the year, but with the continuing development of the district, and the increasing overload to be dealt with by the works, effluent standards have further deteriorated.

Draft proposals submitted by the Council's Consultant Engineers for extensions to the works were considered by the Council during the year, and initial decisions taken as to the most suitable type of scheme (as determined by the form of the present works and the additional land available in the immediate vicinity) so as to permit the preparation by the Consultants of more detailed plans, estimates, etc., for submission to the Ministry.

It is anticipated that the latter will be made during the first few months of 1964.

(b) Sewerage generally

The Biddulph Moor Sewerage Scheme which commenced in August, 1960, was virtually complete by the end of the year. The connecting of house drains to the new sewers and the conversion of pail closets, etc., was also almost completed. Of the total of 224 conversions, 197 had been completed.

When the conversion scheme is finally completed, 232 properties will be connected to the new sewers of which 195 were served by pail closets.

26 applications for Standard Grants have been received from owners of property in the Biddulph Moor area now connected to the sewers.

The Council considered during the early part of the year the sewerage of the outlying areas of the district namely, Whitegates, Grange area, Biddulph Park, Whitemoor, Mow Cop, and the outlying parts of Biddulph Moor and Lask Edge. The matter was deferred pending a further report from the Surveyor.

Closet Accommodation

Number of houses served by water closets	4,331
Number of houses served by privies... ..	5
Number of houses served by privy pails... ..	197
Particulars of conversions made during the year:	
Pails converted to water closets	18

Public Conveniences

The public conveniences in Wharf Road and at Knypersley have offered their normal service to the community, not only to those in need of bodily relief but also to that fraction of the public which finds in such premises, the means and the opportunity to relieve their more destructive instincts and exercise their somewhat dubious artistic talents.

Although there may not be any direct connection, vandalistic damage has decreased somewhat since the removal of payment locks. However, repairs and cleaning arising from this source remained within reasonable limits.

Clean Air Act

The smoke recording apparatus installed in 1959 continued in operation throughout the year. Although there is no serious atmospheric pollution in the district, the readings taken from the machine, which are sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, along with the readings submitted by over 400 other local authorities, enables the department to compile figures for inclusion in their "National Survey of Air Pollution."

No action has yet been taken in connection with smoke control areas and none is contemplated.

The severe winter of 1962/3 has led to quite a number of householders installing various types of central heating systems, many of which will lead to a reduction in the amount of smoke emitted from the domestic chimney.

Caravans

Under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, occupiers of sites and/or caravans are required to obtain licences from the local authority. The act is designed to control sites from both the planning and public health aspects. During the year a licence was issued for a caravan site for 21 caravans. This site serves a useful purpose as there is obviously a need for a properly controlled site, and caravans can be better controlled than when scattered throughout the district.

The licence conditions laid down were based on the Ministry's Model Standards.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Council's refuse collection services continued to operate efficiently throughout the year. All but the outlying areas of the district received a weekly collection, except during the severe weather in the early part of the year when the regular service was temporarily disrupted. Two motor vehicles are used for this purpose, one full-time and one for approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ days per week.

The vehicle engaged part-time on refuse collection is equipped with interchangeable bodies and also undertakes the collection of nightsoil, the emptying of septic tanks, cesspools, etc., and the cleansing of street gullies.

Due to the ever increasing demand on the refuse collection and other services, it was necessary to take steps to increase the available transport for this work. A new refuse collection vehicle was therefore ordered during the year.

In order to maintain a regular refuse collection service and to increase its efficiency, it was decided that an incentive bonus scheme for refuse collection be adopted. This commenced in September and resulted in the increased amount of refuse being collected by the two teams without any additional labour and without any undue delays occurring due to inclement weather and absenteeism.

The work of nightsoil collection has been further reduced during the year by the conversion of more pail closets in the Biddulph Moor area. The remaining pails and privies, approximately 200, most of which are emptied weekly, necessitate the use of the nightsoil vehicle for $1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week, resulting in considerable saving in the cost of nightsoil collection from the time 14 years ago when this work was carried out by two horses and carts engaged full-time.

A total of 1,091 conversions of pail closets to water closets has been carried out since the war. All night soil collected is disposed of at the sewage works.

Salvage

The collection of waste paper continued during the year, but a restriction on weights sent to the mills reduced the tonnage.

Income for financial year 1963/4 was as follows:—

Waste Paper, etc. (152 tons)	1,218
Miscellaneous... ..	53

£1,271

Rats and Mice Destruction

The Council employs one part-time rodent operator for the destruction of rats and mice. A free service is given to private dwelling houses and when business or agricultural premises are treated the cost is charged to the occupier.

Regular treatments of the Council's refuse tip and sewage works, and a further treatment for the destruction of rats in sewers have been carried out.

The following tables gives details of work undertaken during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agri- cultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (Including Council Houses)	(3) All Other (Including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1), (2), & (3)	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District at 1st April, 1963	6	4,284	219	4,509	99
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	—	17	4	21	1
(b) Survey under the Act	4	21	6	31	9
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	—	84	84	—
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	55	65	95	215	4
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats	—	—	—	—	—
(Major)	4	17	4	25	2
(Minor)	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Mice	—	—	—	—	—
(Major)	—	1	2	3	—
(Minor)	—	—	—	—	—
V. Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A.	4	18	5	27	1
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments	18	63	14	95	4

FACTORIES ACT

1. Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories without mechanical power (S.1.2.3.4.6.)	—	—	—
(ii) Factories with mechanical power (S.7)	34	22	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—
(iv) Outworkers	19	—	—
Total ...	57	22	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):			
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes...	1	—	—
Other offences	2	—	—
Total ...	3	—	—

SECTION E—HOUSING

Number of houses erected by Private Enterprise	118
Number of houses erected by Local Authority	46
Total ...	164

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	43
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose	133
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	17
(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head 2 (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices

Number of houses where defects were remedied	16
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers

(a) Notices served under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1957	—
(b) Notices served under Public Health Acts requiring defects to be remedied	2
(c) Number of houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notices	2
(d) Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	2
(e) Number of houses included under sub-head 3 (d) above, in respect of which an undertaking was accepted by the Council	—
(f) Number of Demolition Orders made	2
(g) Number of unfit houses demolished	5
(h) Number of Closing Orders made	—

Unfit Houses

Action was taken to deal with the unfit houses in Brook Street, Brown Lees. Of 17 houses considered to be unfit for human habitation, 14 were represented to the Council in a proposed Clearance Area, 2 were dealt with as individual unfit houses upon which demolition orders were subsequently made and one was demolished as a dangerous structure.

Before proceeding further with the Brook Street Clearance Area, the Council was considering the acquisition of land on which to build new houses for the 14 families.

Rent Act, 1957

No application for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

Improvement Grants

The Council decided during 1962 to consider applications for Discretionary Grants. Four applications were received during 1963, of which three were approved and one was refused.

The payment of Standard Grants for the provision of bathrooms, hot water supplies water closets, etc., is obligatory on the Council and during the year 35 such applications were received involving maximum grants totalling £3,425, of which 29 were approved, 2 refused and 4 deferred. Since the scheme commenced in June, 1959, to 31st December, 1963, 157 applications have been received of which 8 were refused and 4 deferred. Of those approved 121 were from owner-occupiers and 24 concerned other dwellings.

The provision of standard amenities to 19 houses was completed during the year involving the provision of 13 baths, 15 wash-hand basins, 9 hot water supplies, 18 water closets and 11 food stores. 406 inspections and re-inspections were made.

Improvement of Houses

In accordance with Circular 42/62 issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in which Councils were asked to take all necessary steps with the view to increasing the number of houses being improved, the Council decided that a survey be made of suitable property with a view to giving more publicity to the availability of grants. A survey was therefore made of 566 houses, and 218 letters were sent to the owners drawing their attention to the two types of grant available. It is regretted that this action led to very little response and only eighteen applications for grants were received, seventeen for Standard and one for Discretionary.

It is apparent that little progress is likely to be made concerning the voluntary improvement of houses and it will be interesting to see what progress can be made under the terms of the new Housing Bill, at present before Parliament, under the terms of which a measure of compulsion is provided for.

SECTION F

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

There are three private slaughterhouses in the district, used by five butchers and all have been brought up to the new standards of construction.

The Meat Regulations 1963 came into force during the year, under the provisions of which all meat at slaughterhouses must be inspected and not removed until inspected; meat inspected and passed as fit for human consumption must be marked, local authorities may charge for the inspection, and the minimum period of notice of slaughter extended from 3 to 24 hours.

The implementation of these regulations will necessitate more time being given to meat inspection and the necessary marking, but as the aim of the regulations is to insure a 100 per cent. meat inspection throughout the country, it is considered that the extra time spent on this work is justified. Considerable discussion took place by the Council on the controversial question of charges for meat inspection. It was considered by some members that no charge for the service should be made, but it was finally decided to impose the maximum charges.

A table giving details of animals killed and meat condemned is given at the end of this Section. A 100 per cent. inspection of all carcasses has been made.

Food Hygiene

It is considered that one of the most important public health duties is the supervision of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold. Routine visits were made to these premises during the year and although few actual defects were found the opportunity was taken, where necessary, to impress upon food handlers the importance of food hygiene.

As a result of the increased demand for frozen foods many shops have installed frozen food and refrigerated display cabinets, with a consequent reduction in the possibility of contamination of foodstuffs.

Milk Supply

The sampling of milk for bacteriological cleanliness, biological testing and for analysis under the Food and Drugs Acts is carried out by the Staffordshire County Council.

All milk sold retail is bottled and is of three types "Tuberculin Tested," "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised," details of samples taken appear in Section B of the report.

There are 47 persons registered as distributors of milk.

Registration of Food Premises

The number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is as follows:—

- (a) Storage and sale of ice-cream 55
(Four of whom manufacture and the remainder
sell pre-packed ice-cream).
- (b) Preparation or manufacture of sausage or potted,
pressed, pickled or preserved food 9

The following is a summary of the various types of food premises in the area, together with details of inspections made:—

	Number of Premises	Number of Inspections
Ice Cream Premises	54	27
Butchers' Shops	13	40
General Food Premises	78	49
Bakehouses	3	9
Canteens, Kitchens, etc.	15	32
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	4	14
Slaughterhouses	3	393

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ...	139	753	1	2321	936
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	1	46	—	150	55
Percentages ...	0.72%	6.24%	—	6.45%	5.36%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	—	1	—	—	9
Percentages ...	—	0.13%	—	—	1.00%
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—

Weights Condemned

Offal (Head and tongue, lungs, liver, heart, etc.)746lbs.
 Carcase of sheep and part carcase of cow265lbs.

All condemned meat is stained green before leaving the slaughterhouses and is disposed of for animal feeding purposes.

There are 8 men licensed to slaughter animals under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Acts.

Food Inspection

The following foodstuffs were condemned:—

Lard21lbs.
 Tinned livers29lbs.
 Miscellaneous tinned foods 5lbs.

Total ...55lbs.

RAINFALL FOR 1963

These figures were kindly supplied by the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital.

Month	Rainfall in inches	Month	Rainfall in inches
January	0.72	July	2.41
February	0.47	August	3.88
March	2.87	September	5.02
April	2.24	October	3.18
May	2.54	November	4.89
June	4.11	December	0.44

Total ... 32.77 inches

